IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

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NOTICE OF REMOVAL

COME NOW Defendants Michael's Carpet & Linoleum, Inc. d/b/a Michaels Flooring Outlet ("Michaels") and Michael Edward Reynolds a/k/a Mike Reynolds ("Mr. Reynolds"), by and through undersigned counsel hereby remove to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division, the case styled Baywood Rlty. & Constr. Corp. v. Michael's Carpet & Linoleum Inc. d/b/a Michaels Flooring Outlet, and Michael Edwards Reynolds a/k/a Mike Reynolds, Cause No. 1611-CC00882, from the Circuit Court of St. Charles County, Missouri, where the case is now pending. Defendants state the following with respect to this Notice of Removal:

- 1. On September 23, 2016, Plaintiff Baywood Rlty. & Constr. Corp. ("Baywood") filed its Petition in this action in the Circuit Court of St. Charles County, Missouri, naming the Defendants.
- 2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446 as the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, geographically embraces St. Charles County,

Missouri, in which Baywood filed its state court action.

- 3. This action is removable pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1441(a) because it is within the Court's jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, in that the Petition raises a federal question.
- 4. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1), "[t]he notice of removal of a civil action or proceeding shall be filed within 30 days after the receipt by the defendant, through service or otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based..."
- 5. Michaels and Mr. Reynolds received a copy of the Petition and a summons on November 17, 2016, when it was served by Plaintiff. Therefore, this removal is timely.
- 6. The Court has federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, whereby "[t]he district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States."
- 7. The putative class action Petition alleges that Defendants violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227.
- 8. TCPA authorizes a "[p]rivate right of action" when a person is "otherwise permitted by laws or rules of court of a State" to bring the action. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3). Despite the TCPA's grant of jurisdiction to state courts, the district court has subject matter jurisdiction over TCPA claims. *Heller v. HRB Tax Group, Inc.*, 2012 WL 163843 (E.D. Mo. Jan. 19, 2012)(*citing, Nack v. Walburg*, 2011 WL 310249, at *4 n. 2 (E.D. Mo. Jan. 28, 2011)(reversed on other grounds by *Nack v. Walburg*, 715 F.3d 680 (8th Cir. 2013)).
- 9. Therefore, the Petition asserts a discrete federal question under the TCPA, over which this Court has express subject matter jurisdiction.
 - 10. A copy of this Notice of Removal will be filed in the Circuit Court of St. Charles,

Missouri and served upon Plaintiff.

11. A civil cover sheet is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

12. Attached hereto as Exhibit B are true and accurate copies of all process,

pleadings, and orders on file with the Circuit Court of St. Charles County, Missouri.

WHEREFORE, Defendants Michael's Carpet & Linoleum, Inc. d/b/a Michaels Flooring

Outlet and Michael Edward Reynolds aka Mike Reynolds hereby remove this case from the

Circuit Court of St. Charles, Missouri to this Court for all further proceedings, as provided by

law, and request that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446, the Circuit Court of St. Charles County,

Missouri proceed no further unless and until such further order of this Court.

Respectfully submitted,

KOZENY & MCCUBBIN, L.C.

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Attorneys for Defendants

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on this <u>15th</u> day of <u>December</u>, 2016, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served via United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, to the following:

Ronald J Eisenberg Schultz & Associates LLP 640 Cepi Drive, Suite A Chesterfield, MO 63005 Attorney for Plaintiff
